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Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 01465 011047Z

47
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 AF-10 NIC-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /135 W
---------- 036876
R 0110001Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0357
INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1465

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SN, CB
SUBJ: CAMBODIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO
SINGAPORE

1. CAMBODIAN FONMIN KEUKY LIM VISITED SINGAPORE MARCH 27 - 30. AMBASSADOR WONGSANITH WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH VISIT AND COMMENTED TO DCM THAT IN HIS VIEW IT MARKED A NET CHANGE FOR THE BETTER IN GOS ATTITUDE TOWARD GKR. HE POINTED OUT THAT SINCE LON NOL HAD COME TO POWER CAMBODIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD VISITED SINGAPORE SEVERAL TIMES AND HELD TALKS WITH FONMIN RAJARATNAM. HOWEVER, ON THOSE OCCASIONS GOS HAD ALWAYS INSISTED THAT VISITS BE TERMED "PRIVATE." CONSEQUENTLY THIS WAS FIRST TIME FONMIN AND HIS WIFE HAD STAYED AT THE ISTANA AS GOS "OFFICIAL"GUESTS, HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT SHEARES AND HAD BEEN GIVEN OFFICIAL DINNER BY FONMIN RAJARATNAM. HOWEVER, EFFORT TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENT WITH PRIME MINISTER LEE FAILED.
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PAGE 02 SINGAP 01465 011047Z

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

2. DURING MEETING WITH RAJARATNAM KEUKY LIM HAD
THANKED GOS FOR ITS SUPPORT AT UNGA LAST FALL
AND EXPRESSED HOPE GOS WOULD CONTINUE TO LEND
ITS DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT TO GKR. RAJARATNAM ADVISED
KEUKY LIM THAT GKR SHOULD INCREASE ITS EFFORTS
TO OBTAIN MORE AFRO-ASIAN SUPPORT AND
TO LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED IN ATTEMPTING TO NEGO-
TIATE PEACE WITH OPPOSING FORCES IN CAMBODIA.
KEUKY LIM OUTLINED GKR DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO OBTAIN
SUPPORT FROM AFRO-ASIANS, AND STRESSED THAT SO FAR
KHMER COMMUNISTS HAD NOT SHOWN SLIGHTEST INTEREST
IN NEGOTIATING SETTLEMENT. KEUKY LIM TOOK CON-
SIDERABLE PAINS TO STRESS THAT PRINCE SIHANOUK
DID NOT REPRESENT CAMBODIAN INSURGENTS. AMBASSADOR
WONGSANITH SAID THAT RAJARATNAM WAS CAREFUL TO
REFRAIN FROM EXPRESSING SPECIFIC SUPPORT FOR LON
NOL GOVERNMENT AND INDICATED THAT GOS WOULD
CONTINUE TO SUPPORT "CAMBODIA" OR THE "CAMBODIAN
GOVERNMENT," MAKING IT RATHER CLEAR THAT GOS
WISHED TO AVOID TAKING SIDES IN WHAT IT CONTINUES
TO REGARD ESSENTIALLY AS INTERNAL CAMBODIAN MATTER.

3. WONGSANITH SAID GOS HAD INDICATED IT DESIRED
VISIT TO BE HANDLED LOW KEY WITH MINIMUM PRESS COVERAGE.
CONSEQUENTLY, ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS GAVE VIRTUALLY
NO COVERAGE TO THE VISIT. THERE WAS SOMEWHAT
GREATER COVERAGE IN CHINESE LANGUAGE AND MALAY
PRESS.

4. COMMENT: GOS ATTITUDES TOWARD FONMIN'S VISIT WAS
INDEED MORE FORTHCOMING THAN DURING PREVIOUS VISITS
OF CAMBODIAN MINISTERS AND IT SHOULD THEREFORE
BE VIEWED AS A FAVORABLE STEP FORWARD. HOWEVER,
IN VIEW OF GOS RELUCTANCE TO SUPPORT GKR MORE
PUBLICLY AND FAILURE OF PRIME MINISTER LEE TO MEET WITH
KEUKY LIM, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT GOS STILL SOMEWHAT
AMBIVALENT IN ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD GKR.
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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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